

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings of claims in the present application.

What is claimed is:

Claim 1. (Previously Presented) A communication system for performing communication control on information indicating whether or not a third party is present over a network, comprising:

a caller communication terminal equipment having presence inquiring means for making an inquiry to a receiver communication terminal about a presence state of a communicating party, presence information receiving means for receiving presence information from said receiver communication terminal and presence information display means for displaying said received presence information; and

a receiver communication terminal equipment having presence determining means for determining said presence state of an operator of said receiver communication terminal equipment, presence information generating means for generating said presence information and presence information sending means for sending said presence information upon reception of said inquiry, and

wherein said caller communication terminal judges if the operator is present upon receiving said presence information.

Claim 2. (Original) The communication system according to claim 1, wherein with respect to said inquiry, said caller communication terminal equipment acknowledges said communicating

party's being present when receiving a response to said inquiry from said receiver communication terminal equipment and acknowledges said communicating party's being not present when receiving no response to said inquiry.

Claim 3. (Original) The communication system according to claim 1, further comprising message control means for storing messages of plural patterns and selecting a message to be sent to said communicating party and sending said selected message when said communicating party is not present.

Claim 4. (Original) The communication system according to claim 1, further comprising a management server including schedule information managing means for managing schedule information and performing transmission and reception of said schedule information.

Claim 5. (Original) The communication system according to claim 4, wherein said management server regularly inquires about a presence state or a line-busy state of said communicating party, updates management information and sends updated contents to a registered terminal.

Claim 6. (Original) The communication system according to claim 4, wherein said schedule information managing means sends schedule information of a main receiver to a sub receiver in multiline reception mode.

Claim 7. (Original) The communication system according to claim 4, wherein said schedule information managing means sends schedule information of a main receiver to a responder sub receiver in pickup response mode.

Claim 8. (Original) The communication system according to claim 4, wherein said schedule information managing means determines whether or not said communicating party is an outsider and sends schedule information for outsiders when said communicating party is an outsider.

Claim 9. (Original) The communication system according to claim 1, further comprising automatic presence-notification means for, when an absence state has changed to a presence state, automatically notifying that status change to a caller who has called during said absence state.

Claim 10. (Original) The communication system according to claim 1, wherein said receiver communication terminal equipment detects a line-busy state of said communicating party.

Claim 11. (Original) The communication system according to claim 10, wherein said caller communication terminal equipment displays information on said line-busy state of said communicating party.

Claim 12. (Original) The communication system according to claim 1, further comprising a protocol converting unit for connecting said network to an external network and sending

presence information and line-busy information in response to a call made over said external network.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended) A communication terminal equipment for performing communication control on information indicating whether or not any third party is present over a network, comprising:

caller communication terminal presence inquiring means for making an inquiry to a receiver communication terminal about a presence state of a communicating party;

caller communication terminal presence information receiving means for receiving presence information from [[a]] said receiver communication terminal;

caller communication terminal presence information display means for displaying said received presence information;

receiver communication terminal presence determining means for determining said presence state of an operator of said communication terminal equipment;

receiver communication terminal presence information generating means for generating said presence information; and

receiver communication terminal presence information sending means for sending said presence information to a caller communication terminal upon reception of said inquiry.

Claim 14. (Currently Amended) A method implemented in a caller communication terminal to indicate presence information associated with a receiver communication terminal comprising:

(a) transmitting an inquiry querying a receiver communication terminal [[its]] a presence state associated with said receiver communication terminal;

(b) receiving said presence state associated with said receiver communication terminal, said received presence state selected from a group of check results, comprising ~~any of, or a combination of the following~~: a result of a check for active duration of a screensaver at said receiver communication terminal, a result of a check for duration of non-entry of inputs at said receiver communication terminal, a result of a pressure sensor check indicating load of an operator at said receiver communication terminal, and a result of a schedule check performed in conjunction with a schedule database, and

(c) rendering said received presence state of said receiver communication terminal in said caller communication terminal.

Claim 15. (Previously Presented) A method implemented in a caller communication terminal to indicate presence information associated with a receiver communication terminal, as per claim 14, wherein said caller communication terminal and receiver communication terminal are IP telephones communicating over an IP network.

Claim 16. (Currently Amended) A method implemented in a caller communication terminal to indicate presence information associated with a receiver communication terminal, as per claim 14, wherein said caller communication terminal is a non-IP telephone and said receiver communication telephone is an IP telephone, with said presence information modified as a voice message prior to being rendered in said ~~receiver~~ caller communication terminal.

Claim 17. (Previously Presented) A method implemented in a caller communication terminal to indicate presence information associated with a receiver communication terminal, as per claim

14, wherein an operator at said receiver communication terminal is absent, said method comprises the additional step of initiating an auto-notification request instructing said receiver communication terminal to transmit a presence notification message when said operator is present.

Claim 18. (Previously Presented) A method implemented in a caller communication terminal to indicate presence information associated with a receiver communication terminal, as per claim 14, wherein, in a multiline reception more, said presence state associated with said receiver communication terminal is rendered at a sub-receiver.

Claim 19. (Currently Amended) A multiline reception method to indicate presence information associated with a receiver communication terminal comprising:

- (a) receiving an inquiry querying ~~[[a]]~~ said receiver communication terminal regarding presence of an operator;
- (b) identifying presence information associated with an operator of said receiver communication terminal, said received presence information state selected from a group of checks, comprising ~~any of, or a combination of the following~~: a result of a check for active duration of a screensaver at said receiver communication terminal, a result of a check for duration of non-entry of inputs at said receiver communication terminal, a result of a pressure sensor check indicating load of an operator at said receiver communication terminal, and a result of a schedule check performed in conjunction with a schedule database, and when said operator is absent,

(c) rendering said presence information to a sub-receiver communication terminal, said sub-receiver communication terminal part of the same communication network as said receiver communication terminal.

Claim 20. (Currently Amended) A multiline reception method to indicate presence information associated with a receiver communication terminal, as per claim 19, wherein said caller communication terminal, said receiver communication terminal, and said sub-receiver communication terminal are IP telephones communicating over an IP network.